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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 EB-07 COME-00 FRB-03 /068 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4292

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, ECON, SPOP, UR, XH

SUBJ: ECONADS: EXPERT MEETING ON SOVBLOC DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

REF: A. USNATO 5510; B. USNATO 5721; C. DOC ED/EC/75/75

1. WE QUOTE THE ENGLISH TEXT, JUST RECEIVED, OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S NOTE (REF C) ON THE MARCH MEETING OF DEMOGRAPHIC EXPERTS:

BEGIN TEXT:

AT ITS MEETING ON 18TH SEPTEMBER, 1975, THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE APPROVED THE ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE'S PROPOSAL THAT A MEETING ATTENDED BY NATIONAL EXPERTS SHOULD BE HELD ON THIS SUBJECT ON 13TH AND 14TH MAY, 1976(1). MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WILL BE AWARE THAT THESE QUESTIONS ARE STUDIED AT MORE OR LESS REGULAR INTERVALS(2) AND THAT IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO AGREE ON A WORKING PROCEDURE TO HELP THE NATIONAL EXPERTS WHO WILL HAVE THE JOB OF PREPARING THE DOCUMENTS FOR NEXT YEAR'S MEETING.

A. REASONS FOR THE STUDY

2. THE STUDY OF POPULATION TRENDS IN THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IS JUSTIFIED BY THE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE FOR THESE COUNTRIES OF POPULATION MOVEMENT AND CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE

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OF THE POPULATION.

(I) ANY PREDICTIVE SURVEY OF THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES MUST TAKE ACCOUNT, IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE, OF THE EFFECTS ON EXPANSION OF THE SIZE AND STRUCTURE OF THE WORKING POPULATION;

AN EPISODIC OR INHERENT MANPOWER SHORTAGE IS LIKELY TO JEOPARDISE GROWTH IN CERTAIN SECTORS AND THUS CREATE DISTORTIONS AND BOTTLENECKS (WHICH IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO IDENTIFY AND, LATER, QUANTIFY), THROUGHOUT THE ECONOMY. THE PROBLEM BECOMES MORE ACUTE WHEN LABOUR SHORTAGES ARE COUPLED WITH LOW PRODUCTIVITY. ON THE OTHER HAND, AN OVERSIZED, UNDEREMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE CAN GIVE RISE TO PUBLIC DISCONTENT AND SOCIAL PRESSURES.

(1) SEE ED/EC/75/53(REVISED) DATED 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1975 AND AC/127-R/478 AND CORRIGENDUM DATED 22ND SEPTEMBER, 1975.

(2) THE LAST TWO MEETINGS ON THIS SUBJECT WERE HELD IN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER 1971. A REPORT WAS FORWARDED TO THE COUNCIL IN JANUARY 1972 (VIDE C-M(72)1 DATED 25TH JANUARY, 1972).

(II) IN THE MEDIUM AND SHORT-TERM, NATIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS ODIFY THE BALANCE OF FORCES BETWEEN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS INFLUENCING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY ARE ABLE TO ATTAIN HIGH GROWTH RATES AND ADAPT THE WORKING POPULATION TO THE DEMANDS OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY.

(III) MILITARILY SPEAKING, THERE IS A NEED TO MAKE A MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM ASSESSMENT OF THE NUMBER OF PERSONS OF MOBILISABLE OR MILITARY AGE IN THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES WITH A VIEW TO COMPARING THE SITUATION WITH THAT OBTAINING IN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE.

B. SUBJECTS FOR EXAMINATION

3. THE PERIOD TO BE COVERED BY THE SURVEY AND ITS PROJECTIONS SHOULD BE RELATIVELY SHORT; UP TO 1985, FOR INSTANCE. FORECASTS ARE LIKELY TO BE UNRELIABLE AFTER THIS DATE. THERE COULD BE TWO SUB-PERIODS, 1976-1980 INCLUSIVE AND 1981-1985 INCLUSIVE, CORRESPONDING TO THE PERIODS NORMALLY COVERED BY THE FIVE-YEAR PLANS AND FOR WHICH INFORMATION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE. THERE IS ALSO A CASE FOR ESTABLISHING FORECASTS ON THE BASIS OF SEVERAL FUTURE TREND ASSUMPTIONS OR, AT LEAST, ON TWO OF THEM, I.E. FAST AND SLOW POPULATION GROWTH.

4. THE PROJECTED STUDY CONCERNS MAINLY THE WARSAW PACT
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COUNTRIES. FOR THE ALLIANCE COUNTRIES, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH COMPARISONS WITH CHANGES IN THE MOBILISABLE WARSAW PACT MANPOWER. THIS CAN BE DONE BY ASSEMBLING AND PROCESSING THE FORECASTS ON THE STATE OF THE POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS IN THE ALLIED COUNTRIES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FROM OST OF THE STATISTICAL INSTITUTES IN THESE COUNTRIES. OTHERWISE, THESE ESTIMATES COULD PERHAPS BE BASED ON THE LAST-KNOWN POPULATION AGE STRUCTURE AND OTHER POINTERS SUCH AS THE PROBABILITY OF DEATH AND THE SURVIVORSHIP FUNCTION. LASTLY, THE POPULATION STATISTICS OF CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS COULD BE USED, PROVIDED THAT THEY ARE UP-TO-DATE.

5. FOR THE MAIN PART OF THE REPORT - POPULATION TRENDS

IN THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES - A FAIRLY UNIFORM APPROACH TO THE EXAMINATION OF THE POSITION IN EACH COUNTRY IS DESIRABLE. THIS SHOULD MAKE POSSIBLE THE STANDARD PRESENTATION OF CONCLUSIONS IN EACH CASE AND AT THE SAME TIME PRESERVE THE UNITY AND CONTINUITY OF THE SURVEY.

6. FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SURVEY COULD INITIALLY COVER THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

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I. GENERAL DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

(A) TRENDS IN THE NATURAL MOVEMENT OF THE POPULATION AND IN ITS TWO COMPONENT PARTS, NATALITY AND MORTALITY.

(B) FERTILITY TRENDS (IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF FACTORS LIKELY TO HAVE A MORE OR LESS DIRECT INFLUENCE ON FERTILITY).

(C) THE PRESENT AGE STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION, ITS TRENDS AND DIFFERENT PROJECTIONS (AT LEAST TWO) UP TO 1985.

(D) ETHNIC STRUCTURE (IMPORTANT IN THE SOVIET UNION).

(E) MIGRATION.

(F) THE DEMOGRAPHIC POLICIES FOLLOWED BY THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY WHERE NATALITY AND OLD AGE ARE CONCERNED.

II. THE WORKING POPULATION

(A) THE WORKING POPULATION AS A PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE AND ITS PROBABLE DEVELOPMENT.

(B) THE WORKING POPULATION STRUCTURE BY ACTIVITY AND LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION. AN ANALYSIS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS STRUCTURE SHOULD HIGHLIGHT FUTURE MANPOWER AVAILABILITY AND ITS COMPATIBILITY WITH THE ECONOMIC GROWTH TARGETS (BY SECTORS).

C. PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

7. THE SCALE OF THE WORK REQUIRES THAT SEVERAL ALLIED COUNTRIES SHOULD MAKE A SIMULTANEOUS EFFORT TO SUBMIT STUDIES ON THE SITUATION IN EACH OF THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES. AS A PURELY TENTATIVE SUGGESTION, ON THE BASIS OF THE WORK-SHARING FORMULA ADOPTED ON SIMILAR OCCASIONS IN THE PAST, PARTICULARLY

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IN 1971, PERHAPS THE UNITED STATES COULD DEAL WITH DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN THE SOVIET UNION, FRANCE WITH THOSE IN POLAND AND RUMANIA, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WITH THOSE IN THE GDR AND BULGARIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH THOSE IN HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. AT THE SAME TIME ONE COUNTRY COULD BE ASKED TO PREPARE A TABLE SHOWING POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE-GROUPS IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. THIS WOULD CONSIST MAINLY IN THE COMPILATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF DATA AVAILABLE FROM VARIOUS NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL SOURCES. IF WILLING, ITALY COULD PROVIDE A SHORT STUDY OF POPULATION TRENDS IN ALBANIA, ALTHOUGH THIS COUNTRY IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE WARSAW PACT. LASTLY, A COMPARISON OF THE MAJOR DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WOULD PROVIDE A VERY USEFUL BACKGROUND FOR A WIDER APPROACH TO THIS SUBJECT.

8. ALL THE NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE SENT IN TO THE ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE BY THE LAST WEEK IN APRIL 1976 AT THE LATEST.

9. THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING AND A CONSOLIDATED REPORT SETTING OUT THE EXPERTS' MAIN CONCLUSIONS, WHICH MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE SENT TO THE COUNCIL.
END TEXT. BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO05866
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197510101/abbrzmvh.tel
Line Count: 192
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. USNATO 5510; B. USNATO 5721; C. DOC ED/EC/75/75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECONADS: EXPERT MEETING ON SOVBLOC DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS
TAGS: NATO, ECON, SPOP, UR, XH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006